

beak and that of a hawk, and the difference in the feet. Does this suggest any reason for its impaling mice, sparrows, etc., on thorns, dry twigs, or barbed wire? Note whether other birds seem content to nest in the neighbourhood of a family of shrikes.

Snowbird. Burroughs speaks of the "slate-coloured snowbird." This seems to be our slate-coloured junco. This little bird is dark-gray above and gray down over the breast. The belly is white and so are the outer tail feathers, which show clearly when the bird flies.

Snow-bunting. The snow-bunting is with us oftener called the snowbird, or snowflake. With us also, as with Burroughs, it is a winter visitor from the north. We usually see it in its winter plumage, white, brown, and black. The white is the most conspicuous colour when the birds are flying about. The summer plumage is white and black.

Sparrows. The English sparrow was first introduced into America in 1851 and has since spread rapidly. It is only within the last fifteen or twenty years that it has become common in Manitoba. It was originally introduced with the idea that it would become useful in keeping down certain scale-insects on fruit-trees. The general effect of its introduction has been to drive away from the neighbourhood of man many native birds more beautiful and useful than it is. *Winter Neighbours* was published in *Signs and Seasons* in 1886. It is interesting to note that the English sparrow was then first gaining a foothold in Burroughs's district.

Starling. The starling mentioned by Burroughs is the meadow-lark. Its plumage above is grayish-brown barred with black; below yellow, with the sides darker and spotted with brown. It has a black crescent on the breast.

Swallow. In *Sharp Eyes* note the sentence: "Without his assistance the swallows would doubtless have gone hungry yet another day." Did you ever see a swallow attempt to catch an insect in any other way than by pursuing it on the wing?

Tit-lark. The tit-lark is commonly known as the American pipit. The colour above is olive-brown, with dusky wings, edged with pale brown, and the tail having large patches of